

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 OMB-01 PC-01 IO-10 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AS-01 DHA-02 /088 W
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R 180845Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9549

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 16204

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ORIT, ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: FURTHER CHURCH REACTION TO NEW LABOR DECREE

REF: MANILA 16053

1. AS SUGGESTED REFTEL, MORE SIGNIFICANT PROTEST FROM
BROADER GROUP CHURCHMEN HAS MATERIALIZED. IN NOVEMBER 12
LETTER TO MARCOS (TEXT AIRPOUCHED), ARCHBISHOP JAIME SIN
PROTESTED "MOST VIGOROUSLY AGAINST CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF
P.D. 823". ACCORDING MANILA ARCHDIOCESE, LETTER CO-SIGNED
BY 1511 PRIESTS AND NUNS INCLUDING OTHER MANILA BISHOPS
AND MANY AMRSP HEADS OF ORDERS (ACTING IN PRIVATE CAPACITY).

2. LETTER PROTESTED PARTICULARLY "AGAINST THE BAN ON
FOREIGNERS -- ESPECIALLY FOREIGN PRIESTS, NUNS, OR MIS-
SIONARIES -- WHO WOULD WISH TO GIVE AID AND COMFORT TO
FILIPINO WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. IF THESE FOREIGNERS
GIVE ANY ASSISTANCE, IT IS BECAUSE THEY ARE MINISTERS OF
GOD, NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE ALIENS WHO WISH TO MEDDLE IN
OUR AFFAIRS. WHEN THEY RENDER THIS ASSISTANCE, THEY DO
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SO, NOT AS AMERICANS OR AUSTRALIANS OR ITALIANS, BUT AS

CHRISTIANS -----." REFERRING TO NEED FOR CHURCH-STATE COOPERATION, SIN WARNED "IF THE CHURCH IS STOPPED IN HER WORK -- AS SHE, IN FACT, IS STOPPED BY THE P.D. IN QUESTION -- THEN THE TASK OF THE STATE WILL BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT." IN CLOSING, SIN URGED MARCOS "TO RESCIND OR AT LEAST REVISE" LABOR DECREE.

3. EMBASSY RELIABLY INFORMED THAT ARCHBISHOP ANTONIO MABUTAS OF DAVAO CITY, MINDANAO, ADDRESSED "PARAPHRASE" OF SIN LETTER TO MARCOS ON NOVEMBER 14. THAT LETTER ALSO CO-SIGNED BY PRIESTS AND NUMS FROM DAVAO ARCHDIOCESE. NEITHER MESSAGE HAS APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS, ALTHOUGH AP RELEASE NOVEMBER 13 REPORTED SIN LETTER.

4. COMMENT: DEPENDABLE SOURCE AT MANILA ARCHDIOCESE TOLD LABATT NOVEMBER 18 THAT SINHAD WANTED SIGN LETTER ALONE, BUT ADVISERS CONVINCED HIM CO-SIGNERS WOULD PROVIDE NEEDED "SHOW OF UNITY". ARCHDIOCESE EXPECTS NO ANSWER FROM MALACANANG AND IN MEANTIME "NUMS ARE WORKING OVERTIME" DISTRIBUTING COPIES OF SIN LETTER AROUND MANILA. SOURCE, NOTING COPY HAD BEEN SENT TO ILO IN GENEVA, SAID IT WOULD BE INTERESTING SEE HOW THAT BODY REACTS TO "REPRESSIVE" LABOR DECREE DRAFTED BY LABOR SECRETARY OPLE, PRESIDENT OF RECENT 60TH ILO CONFERENCE. SEPARATE MESSAGE REPORTS OPLE'S EFFORTS MUSTER LABOR/MANAGEMENT SUPPORT FOR P.D. 823.
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